## HFC MVAC Emission Mitigation

# Air Resources Board Public Workshop Sacramento, CA February 5, 2008

#### ARPI

#### Automotive Refrigeration Products Institute

- Coalition of companies packaging & distributing
   DIY automotive air conditioning products
- Committed to reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- □ The driving force in mobile refrigerant industry
  - Educating public on proper use of refrigerants
  - Innovations in can & refrigerant use safety
  - Designed unique R-134a fittings to facilitate & safeguard transition to SNAP approved non-CFC refrigerants

# AB 32 Emission Reductions Requirements

- Cost effective
- Technologically feasible
- Ensure that regulations do not disproportionately impact lower-income communities

California Health and Safety Code 38500 et seq.

#### **About Air Conditioning**

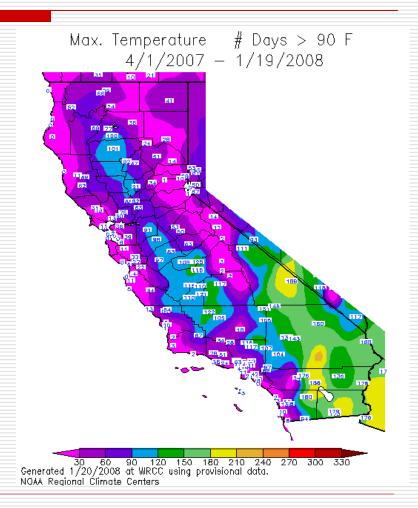
- ☐ Refrigerant R-134a
  - Tetrafluoroethane (CH2FCF3)
    - An inert gas used primarily as a refrigerant for domestic refrigeration and automobile air conditioners
    - Other uses include plastic foam blowing, propellant for the delivery of pharmaceuticals, gas dusters and air driers

#### Air Conditioning...Continued

- Packaging
  - A packager converts raw R-134a refrigerant into a consumer product
    - Packaging refrigerant into small cans
    - Adding product value
      - Leak-cessation compounds
      - System conditioning oils
      - Refrigerant boosting additives
    - Adding user value
      - Dispensing systems and detailed instructions
      - Measuring gauges to ensure proper charging

#### Air Conditioning...Continued

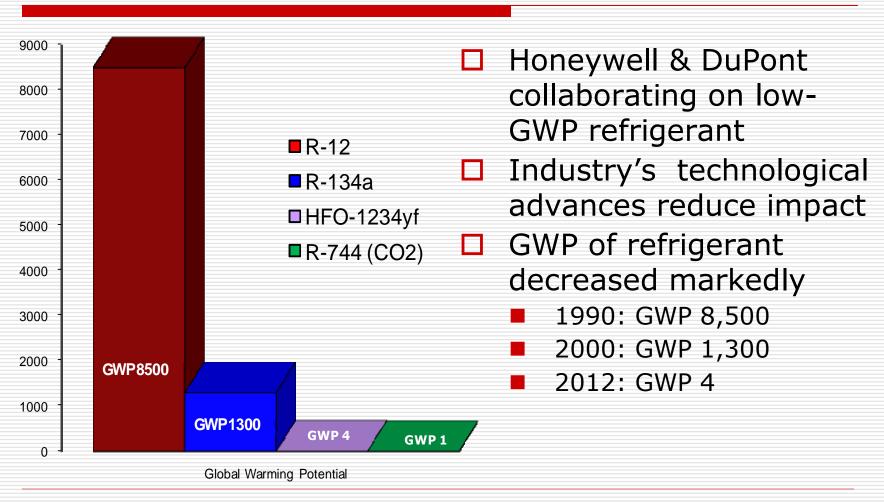
Little question that most Californians need air conditioning



#### A History of Cooperation

- □ The Past...R-12 (Freon) Conversion
  - Industry led transition to non-ozone depleting refrigerant when R-12 was found to be ODS
  - Systems engineered for easy conversion
  - ARPI members developed unique fittings
  - Transition facilitated by restrictions & R-12 floor-tax

## New Low Global Warming Refrigerant Coming by 2012



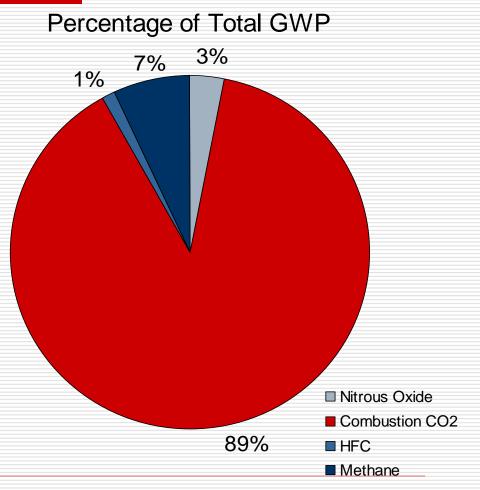
#### A Future of Cooperation

- □ The Future...R-134a Conversion
  - Will replicate successful R-12 replacement
  - Encourage safe and effective replacement for R-134a systems
  - Ensure proper infrastructure for replacement

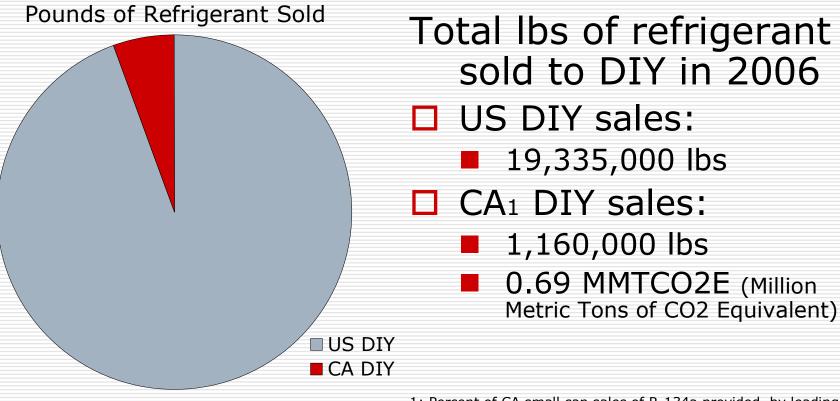
#### Global Warming Potential Context

According to AD Little Study (1999):

- CO2 from combustion top contributor
- □ HFCs only 1% and mobile A/C 5% of the 1% HFC slice



#### **Emissions Attributable to Small Can**



1: Percent of CA small can sales of R-134a provided by leading retailers AutoZone and Wal-Mart

#### Early Emissions Assumptions

- □ 2006 CAT Report:
  - CARB estimated HFC-134a emissions at 2.4 MMTC02E
- □ 2007 Early Action Reassessment:
  - With industry assistance, CARB recalculated estimated emissions at 1 to 2 MMTC02E
- □ 2008 Studies to fine-tune data:
  - CARB commissioned "Practice Evaluation of Small Can Users" study fine tuning data
  - For first time, HFC-134a will be reported in CA consumer & commercial products survey

#### Social Segment Impact

Who uses the small can and why?

- Low-Income and Fixed-Income Californians (many minority & seniors) who can't afford to take their vehicle to a shop for service
- Independence and Can-do Attitude
- □ Ensure Quality of Work
- Pride of Ownership in Maintaining Vehicle

#### Social Segment Advocacy

- □ Environmental Justice Advisory Committee recommends
  - Removing ban from early action list
  - Taking a broader review of HFC reductions and focus on larger sources of HFCs
    - Referred to proposed ban as "regressive"
    - Urged CARB to look to higher reduction measures
    - Lamented burden on low income & minorities

#### **Aggravating Emissions Factors**

- ☐ Can heel:
  - Residual refrigerant in can after use
- Improper handling:
  - Refrigerant loss connecting attachments
- □ Leak-refill cycle:
  - Charging of leaking system without addressing underlying need for repair
- Old components:
  - Older fittings & connections far less efficient

#### Mitigating Behavior

- Consumer education
  - Proper use of refrigerant and tools
  - When to seek professional help
- Enhanced instructional media
  - How-to videos
- Used can collection for recycling
  - Simple, return to retail
  - Cash refund incentive
  - Consumers want to "do the right thing"

#### **Economic Impact**

- Disproportionately, most direct effect would be on lower income Californians
  - How much?
  - Incremental consumer cost: \$166,499,000

(Frost and Sullivan Study, 2006)

Do-it Yourself Cost, per pound of R-134a:

\$13.32



Professional Mechanic Installed, cost per pound:

\$156.81



## Alternative Regulatory Proposal

- Three-part proposal
  - 1. Industry's addition of self-sealing valve
    - Minimize accidental discharge
    - Preserve contents for reclamation
  - 2. Used can collection for recycling
    - Simple, return to retail
    - Cash refund incentive
  - 3. Consumer education
- Combine with MVAC leak test within CA Smog Check program

#### New Self-Sealing Can Top

- □ To be incorporated on all 2 to 24oz cans
- Prevent accidental refrigerant emissions from used small cans
- Mitigate 97 to 99% potential can heel emissions
- Leak rate limit being established and verified by independent test laboratory

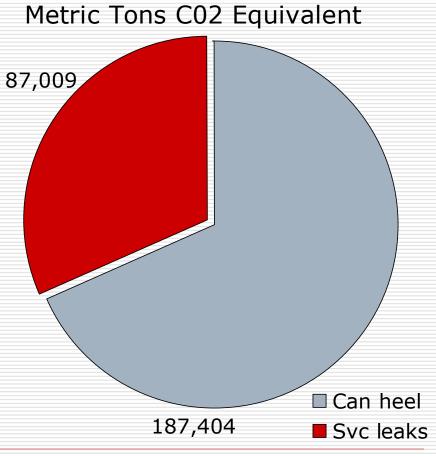
#### Recycling Program

- Voluntary industry-administered Used Can Collection, R-134a Reclamation & Recycling for California
  - \$1 consumer return incentive
  - Established logistics and processes
- Sharing expertise with CA Integrated Waste Management Board
- ☐ In service in CA by January 1, 2010

#### Alternative Proposal Emissions Reductions in Global Warming Potential

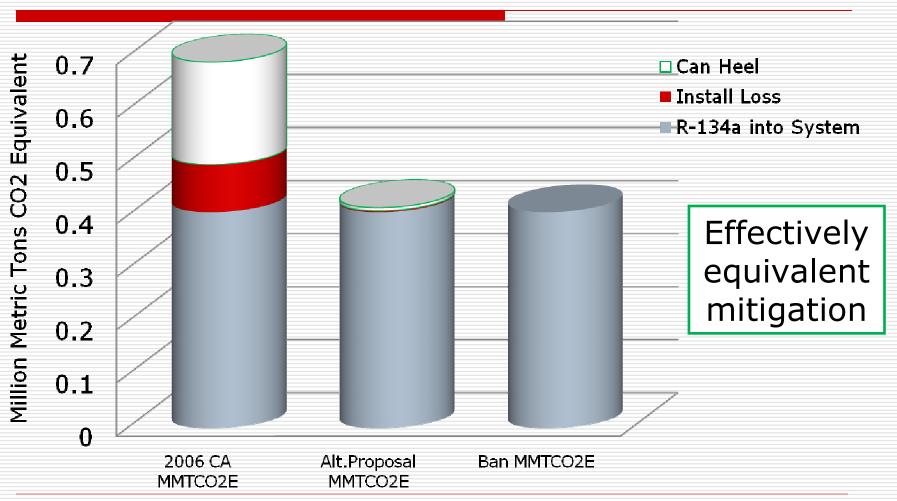
- GWP Savings of alternative proposal
  - Reducing can heel
  - Reducing leaks from improper servicing:

274,413 MTC02E\*



<sup>•</sup> **Note**: For the purposes of this document, ARPI is using Armines' 07-Nov-07 preliminary report of theoretical 28% heel and 13% DIY installation loss as one basis for calculations. Use of this preliminary data does not represent ARPP acceptance of its accuracy or validity until final results are published, reviewed and agreed upon.

# Emissions Savings Illustration: 2006 Actual vs. ARPI Alternative & Ban

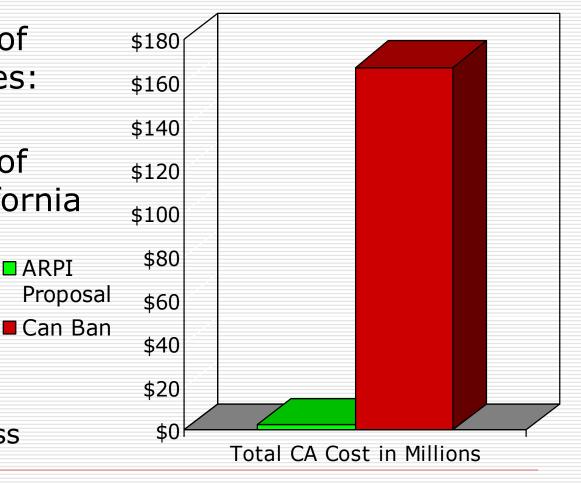


<sup>•</sup> **Note**: For the purposes of this document, ARPI is using Armines' 07-Nov-07 preliminary report of theoretical 28% heel and 13% DIY installation loss as one basis for calculations. Use of this preliminary data does not represent ARPF acceptance of its accuracy or validity until final results are published, reviewed and agreed upon.

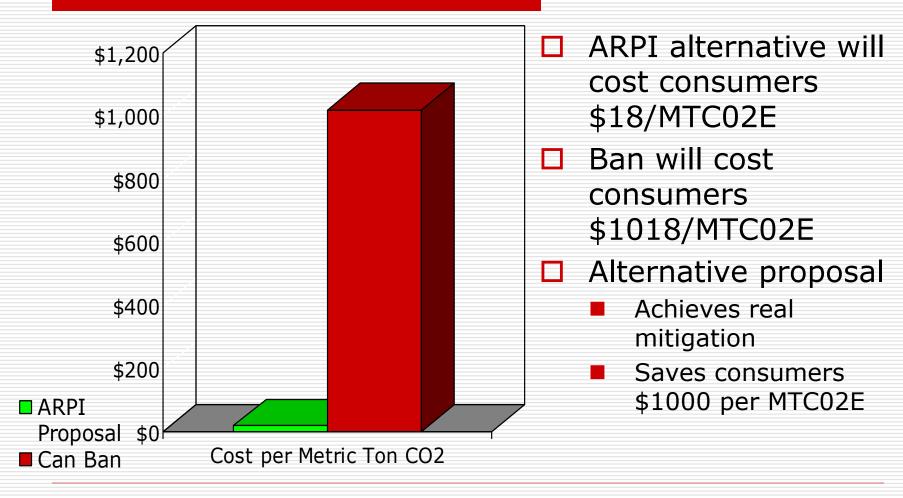
## Alternative Proposal Cost

ARPI

- Estimated cost of **ARPI** alternatives: \$2,500,000
- Estimated cost of can ban to California consumers:
  - \$166,499,000
  - Nationwide: \$2.76 billion
- □ Alternative:
  - \$164 million less



#### Cost Effectiveness Comparison



#### Summary

- In many parts of California, air conditioning is a necessity
- ARPI's cooperative, voluntary measures offer equivalent GWP savings to early action restriction (ban)
- AB 32 requires cost effectiveness and fairness to low-income citizens
- Industry's alternative proposal is cost effective
- New, low GWP refrigerant on the way